

Prevailing Wind

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Water Survival Training



**Photos By Technical
Sgt. Dan Heaton,
127th Public Affairs**

Numerous members of the 107th Fighter Squadron went through required water survival refresher training, Aug. 15, 2010 at Red Oaks Water Park in Madison Heights, Mich. During the training, pilots from Selfridge Air National Guard Base were pulled into the wave pool to simulate the pull of a parachute. The pilots then had to extricate themselves from the parachute harness. The pilots are required to undergo the water survival training once every three years. See story on page 5.



Commander's Column



By Lt. Col. Gregory Holzhei
127th Maintenance Group Commander

I think this article is a great opportunity to communicate on a couple of issues that apply to all members of the 127 Wing. Usually, when you sit down to write an article or editorial you strive to make it entertaining so folks will read the whole story. In and around the entertainment piece, the writer needs to have a point. I will try to do both.

One of the recent discussions we have had at the wing level has to do with security clearances. As you should already know, a Secret security clearance is the normal minimum security clearance most of us should be able to obtain and maintain. Most jobs in the wing have this requirement. Somewhere in our enlisting or commissioning we are investigated and found to be worthy of some level of security clearance. Some of us have Top-Secret security clearances because we need access to Top-Secret information, or in other words, "need to know" at the Top Secret level.

These investigations are very time-consuming and expensive to conduct. Most involve some face-to-face interviews with friends, family and co-workers. Most involve a background criminal check, and finally a check of your personal finances and

business dealings. It is this last item that has our attention lately. Since the downturn of Michigan's economic situation, we are seeing more and more folks unable to meet their financial obligations, for a variety of reasons. Some had home mortgages built on two incomes where one of the incomes is lost due to layoffs. Some are overwhelmed by unexpected medical expenses. Some are just plain unable to find work in Michigan and have to seek employment in another state. Any of these situations (and a lot more) may cause any member to have a difficult and burdensome financial situation. Unfortunately, any of these situations and the inevitable inability of the member to meet financial obligations will show up during a background check during the security clearance process.

Ordinarily, even if a member is having financial difficulties, if the member is seeking the right kind of help and doing everything he or she can to "pay the bills", and can prove it, he or she will still be able to obtain a security clearance. In other words, being up-side-down on a mortgage, or past due on a few utility bills will not be reason for concern.

Continued, pg. 3



...From the Chief's Desk



By Chief Master Sgt. Mike Carroll
127th Wing Emergency Manager

Does your employer know what you do when you have to come out to Selfridge for a weekend? Do your mom and dad know what you do when you deploy? Do your kids understand what job you have with the Air National Guard? Do your friends know that you are in the Air National Guard?

We always talk and preach about being ready for deployments, about letting our families know who to contact and how they are informed and taken care of while we are gone. For the most part we do a very good job with that. I am not going to harp on you about being ready for deployments. I want to talk to you about sharing our story.

When I talk about sharing our story I am not talking about being on the six o'clock news or a front page story in the local newspaper. I am talking about telling your neighbors what you do in the Air Guard, telling your barber the benefits of being in the Guard, telling the lady who does your nails the Air National Guard is assisting in paying for your college degree, telling your employer that the Air National Guard covers about half of all Air Force deployments for roughly 7% of the Air Force budget. These are incredible facts that we don't share often enough.

When you watch the news very seldom do you hear the words "Air National Guard." In fact most people, when they hear the term "National Guard", instantly think of the Army Guard building sand bags to protect a city from flooding. We Air Guard members do a poor job of selling our story. Get smart about the Guard and share the story of our home and away missions every chance you get.

Of course when we talk about what we do for the Guard we also need to be careful that we are not sharing critical information that our enemies can use against us. Tell our story on Facebook, Twitter, My Space or whatever social media you use, but be sensitive to what information you are sharing. On the AF Portal there are helpful talking papers about what you can and cannot share.

We must share our story so that everyone knows our value and that we are Always Ready, Always There. This is our ammunition as the DoD faces serious cuts. America needs to know that The National Guard is America's solution. Start spreading the word about the Air National Guard and begin with your personal community; tell it to our friends, family, employers and the people we talk to on a daily basis.



**The Official
Newspaper
of the 127th
Wing**

A proud military organization characterized by excellence and integrity in the fulfillment of our duties to our nation, community and to one another.

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For story or photograph submissions, ideas or comments for the paper, e-mail the Prevailing Wind staff at:

127.WG.Prevailingwind@ang.af.mil

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Friday, September 24

Civilian, military leaders: Guard is America's solution in changing times

**By Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau**

Civilian and military leaders said here on Saturday that the National Guard is America's solution in a time of constrained budgets, increased missions and the necessity of developing greater partnership capacity.

"The National Guard has repeatedly proven itself to be ready and a very accessible force," Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, told about 5,400 people attending the 132nd general conference of the National Guard Association of the United States here this week.

"We validated the Total Force concept by showing that the men and women in our formations are ready to answer the call to be mobilized, to deploy overseas, to return home and then to become prepared to do it all over again," he said.

"We ... are facing a potentially momentous year," Dennis McCarthy, the assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs said. "There are going to be some decisions made this year that will have significant impact on the way the young men and

women, who are wearing the uniform right now and those who will follow them are going to serve over the next couple of decades."

Leaders sketched a picture of an environment in which budgets will be tight, the operational tempo will remain high and the Defense Department is looking for ways to boost partnership capacity worldwide.

"We've got challenging times ahead," McKinley said.

All agreed on three key points: The National Guard has reached a peak of excellence since a transformation that began, arguably, with Desert Storm/Desert Shield and certainly since the 9/11 attacks.

Although senior level discussions and a dozen studies are underway about the future of the Guard and Reserve, no one wants to see it return to the Cold War-era strategic reserve.

And the National Guard is a key part of America's solution to changing times. "We are one of the most efficient, effective organizations in our nation today," McKinley said.

Commanders Column cont.

The concern starts when a member ignores the financial hardship and stops attempting to plan to deal with it. This failure to plan is what gets a member's security clearance denied or revoked. Members who can not get or maintain a security clearance are not allowed to deploy.

Unlike the Air Guard of the past, you have to realize that there is no place to put a member who is without a security clearance. In the Maintenance Group, and I suspect in every other Group on the base I don't have a single non-mobility position on my manning document to park someone who can't obtain a security clearance. This presents a real dilemma for me because I am forced to discharge a member who fails to obtain or maintain a security clearance.

Finally, my point is this: failure to deal with financial difficulties is not an option. Enlisted members need to contact their respective First Sergeants when they feel overwhelmed with financial obligations. Supervisors should be kept in the loop and may be able to provide additional direction for help with

financial difficulties. Often a member may feel like they are the only one with these problems, I assure you, that is not the case. Most experienced First Sergeants, Supervisors and Commanders have more than one person in their units with financial difficulties and have a lot of empathy for these situations. In the end, it will remain the member's responsibility to not allow financial difficulties to effect a security clearance. In most cases, it's how the member deals with the difficulty that makes the difference.



Alternative Fuel Test ends after two years

By TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Public Affairs

Blue pick-up trucks and drab green generators have been at the forefront of a power revolution at Selfridge Air National Guard base.

Through a series of test projects, partnerships and other training projects, virtually every piece of ground equipment at Selfridge now operates or can be operated on some type of alternative fuel, rather than traditional gasoline or diesel fuel.

"We want to continue to be out in front," said Capt. Shaun Modock, transportation officer for the 127th Wing. "We are more than open to working with others on (research & development) and other projects."

In the last several years, the 127th Wing has been involved with a variety of test projects in the alternative fuels arena, including:

- The Fischer-Tropsch blended fuel demonstration, which concluded in July and tested a synthetic blend of kerosene fuel - called S-8 -- in a variety of ground vehicles and aerospace ground equipment, also known as AGE. The S-8 was often further blended with JP-8, the fuel currently used in most USAF aircraft, during the ground test at Selfridge.
- A test of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, in which about a dozen trucks were used by Selfridge security forces.
- A test of several vehicles powered by compressed natural gas, or CNG.

A project in which several vehicles have been modified to run on E-85 gasoline, which blends 15 percent ethanol into regular gasoline.

- The use of low-sulfur diesel fuel on all diesel-operated equipment.

"I feel like I am really on the first wave of a new revolution in vehicle technology," said Technical Sgt. Jerry Byrdo, a vehicle maintenance specialist and alternative fuels noncommissioned officer in charge for the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Approximately 40 Airmen at Selfridge have received training in a variety of alternative fuels technology - including some conducted at the base by a local college - and perhaps as many as 200 Airmen have used or driven in alternative fuel-powered vehicles or equipment, some probably without even realizing they had done so, said Master Sgt. Carlos Vetraino, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Fuels shop at Selfridge, part of the 127th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"One big advantage of serving as a test site and data collection center is that all of our mechanics have been exposed to all

"I feel like I am really on the first wave of a new revolution in vehicle technology"

By TSgt. Jerry Byrdo

of this new technology," Modock said. "At one time, we were testing vehicles that were using similar technology to what will be on GM's new Chevy Volt.

Particularly for our traditional Guard members, this is a nice addition to a resume. If they are looking for a job in the civilian sector, this gives them an edge."

Air Force Benefits

According to Vetraino, about 90 percent of the ground fleet equipment now in operation by the Air Force can be run by the Fischer-Tropsch blend, should the military decide to continue using the S-8 fuel.

"Generally, the Fischer-Tropsch was cleaner burning, the average miles per gallon was pretty much the same, but the cost is a little higher," Vetraino said.

Modock said with the Fischer-Tropsch research concluded locally, the Air Force and other agencies can use that data to decide if moving ahead with the blend is warranted or can use the data to add to other research projects as it continues to seek out alternative energy sources.

The Fischer-Tropsch test is one of several projects being used by the Air Force Advanced Power Technology Office (APTO) to work toward that agency's two goals: to provide a bridge from an oil-based economy to a new energy economy; and to move technology out of the laboratories and into the hands of the nation's war fighters.



Photo by TSgt. David Kujawa, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Emily Santiago performs an engine inspection on a dump truck in the vehicle maintenance shop at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Aug. 10, 2010. Selfridge has been the site of a number of tests of alternative fuels for vehicles and other ground equipment over the last several years.

Pilots Utilize Local Wave Pool for Survival Training

By TSgt. Dan Heaton
127th Wing Public Affairs

With a tug of a rope, the pilot splashed into the water. As his survival vest inflated, a wave crashed over his head. With a flick of two buckles, he worked his way free of the rope and began to swim to safety.

Pilots of the 107th Fighter Squadron spent the early morning hours of Aug. 15, 2010, refreshing their emergency water survival skills, utilizing a local wave pool in a county park to simulate ejecting from an aircraft over the water.

"This is a very realistic scenario for our pilots," said Chief Master Sgt. Aaron Lynch, head of the air crew flight equipment section at the 107th. "After take-off, our aircraft frequently will turn to the east and fly over Lake St. Clair."

The 107th flies the A-10 Thunderbolt II and is based at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, located along the shores of Lake St. Clair, a smaller lake located between Lakes Huron and Erie that serves as part of the border between Michigan and Ontario, Canada.

"It was very realistic training," said a dripping wet Major John Ohm, after completing his training and stepping out of the pool. "The waves in the pool simulate what you might expect in the ocean."

Ohm and his fellow pilots must undergo water survival refresher training once every three years to maintain their qualification. During the training, pilots were pulled from the edge of the pool into water that was about 15 feet deep. The pilots were attached to a rope held by a half-dozen Life Support Airmen on the opposite side of the pool, who pulled the pilot into the water and then dragged him or her several

feet through the water, to simulate the pull of a parachute.

While the pilots are trained to attempt to hit the water on their backside, but in the training, pilots were pulled both back first and face first into the water.

"Depending on their situation, they may not be able to maneuver to hit the water and have the parachute pull them on their back, so they need to have a familiarity of what to do in either case," said Master Sgt. Ed Stone, training manager for the 107th flight equipment team.

After being pulled into the water twice, the pilots swam to a second station, where they were placed under a parachute canopy in the water and had to find their way out. At a third station, the pilots had to enter into a life raft and utilize other survival gear, such as their signal mirror. After leaving the water, pilots were given a refresher course on how to repair a rip in a life raft.

Lynch arranged to hold the training at the Red Oaks Water Park, a part of the Oakland County Parks system, in Madison Heights, Mich. The park is located less than 20 miles from Selfridge. Lynch said over the years, the 107th has utilized a number of different locations to conduct the training, including at a military training site off the coast of Florida and in Lake St. Clair itself.

"The park gives us a good, controlled environment, where we can get the training done efficiently," he said.

The park provided an on-site lifeguard, in addition to a number of Air National Guard safety personnel who were observing the training. The military's training began early in the morning, so that all of the training could be complete and the Guard's equipment would be removed from the pool before it opened for the day to the public at 10 a.m.



Photo by TSgt. Dan Heaton, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. William Henderson, chief of safety and an A10 pilot for the 127th Wing, is pulled into the water as part of his water survival refresher training, Aug. 15, 2010. During the training, pilots from Selfridge Air National Guard Base were pulled into the wave pool at Red Oaks Water Park in Madison Heights, Mich., to simulate the pull of a parachute. The pilots then had to extricate themselves from the parachute harness. The pilots are required to undergo the water survival training once every three years.

New 127th Force Support Squadron commander



Photo by MSgt. Clarence Pence, 127th Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Mac Crawford, 127th Mission Support Group commander (left), presents the Squadron flag to Maj. Jack Roberts (right) as he assumes command of the 127th Force Support Squadron, on Aug. 14, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

Major Roberts (photo, right) is the new commander of the 127th Force Support Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. He formally accepted the position at an assumption of command ceremony Aug. 14. Roberts is an 18-year veteran and recent transfer from the National Guard Bureau.

Maj. Roberts originated from Big Bear Lake, California and started out as an enlisted firefighter stationed in Sembach AB, Germany. Throughout a diverse range of challenging positions Roberts achieved his commission as an officer and brought himself to the status he is at today.

Roberts transferred here with his wife and three children to start a new challenge in this command position.

Young Hero

By 1st Lt. Anthony J. Lesterson
127th Public Affairs

Young Hero awardee Matthew Griener, shows up as the honored guest of the Selfridge Fire Station on Aug. 30, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

In addition to being honored by 127th Wing members and the Selfridge firefighters for his courage and strength, Matthew received a medal, commander's coin, blue camouflage t-shirt with his last name on the back and a baseball cap.

The Young Hero program seeks to bolster the hope and courage of families, friends, and the young victims of life threatening illnesses and injuries.

For More information log onto www.Michigan.gov/dmva and click on the Community and Youth Program link.



Photo by 1st Lt. Anthony J. Lesterson, 127th Public Affairs

Young Hero awardee Matthew Griener, tries on fireman response gear with help from Max Corning, Selfridge firefighter just before taking a ride in one of the Selfridge fire trucks. Matthew pointed out the way during a ride along the runway in a simulated emergency incident.

Promotions

Senior Airman

Daniel Lecureaux, 127 WG
Deborah L. Nowosad, 127 FSS
Adam M. Peelish, 127 CES
Joshua W. Wolkins, 191 MXS

Staff Sergeant

Matthew H. Black, 127 CES
Kevin J. Burch, 191 CES
David C Kirkbride, 127 MXS
Kieth L. Perkins, 127 CES

Technical Sergeant

Timothy Huhtasaari, 127 AMX

Peter J. Noot, 191 MXS

Master Sergeant

Richard A. Freeburg, 127 MXS

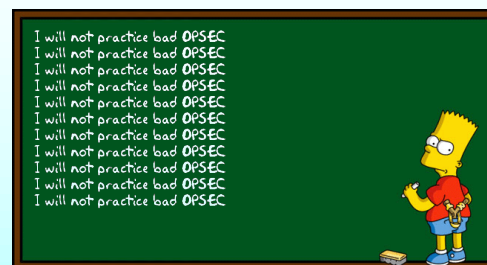
Chief Master Sergeant

Roger S. Thomson, 127th MDG

Newcomers

William Ashford
A1C Carry Birkett
SSgt. Corey Eckel
Jonathan Garshott
A1C Desiree Jones
Mark Kelsey II
Joseph Lijek

Tamara Robinson
SSgt. Jerry White



**Remember OPSEC when
posting to Social Media
Sites**

Briefly ...

Selfridge Family Day

Come one, come all! On Sunday, Sept. 26, there will be a joint military Selfridge Family Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the top 4 area and all members from the Selfridge team are encouraged to attend. There will be entertainment and games for everyone. Prizes will be passed out to the kids. Pizza and burgers along with other sides will be served with refreshments. So bring a blanket and plan for a fun filled day with family, friends, and co-workers.

NGB Seeks Feedback on Families with Special Needs

National Guard Bureau is actively working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and all Parent Service Organizations (Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines) to add additional support services for Families with Special Needs (Exceptional Family Member Program-EFMP).

The NGB needs your feedback to determine the scope of the needs and the most important issues impacting these families. Your survey feedback will directly affect proper allocation of resources to support our Families with Special Needs. All Soldiers, Airmen,

family members of service members, and ARNG/ANG Family Program staff are encouraged to participate. The Guard Family Special Needs Survey assessment will only take two minutes or less, and will be available until August 31. To complete the survey, please click on this link to the [Joint Services Support \(JSS\)](#) webpage.

Want to Do More?

On Serve.gov, you can find opportunities to support and engage servicemembers and their families. From organizing a care package event to volunteering at a camp for military children, there are a number of key ways to get involved. Everyday our brave men and women in uniform make a selfless commitment to our nation. Now, it's our turn to take some time to serve those that have served us. Get started on Serve.gov www.serve.govmilitaryfamilies.asp

Budget Workshop

There will be a budget workshop at the Selfridge Base Chapel from 12p.m. to 5 p.m. open to all military members and their families.

Bring your bills and questions and sit down to write out a budget that you can live with.

Learn what affects your credit score and how to pay your bills.

Live within your means and gain financial peace.



Pass and ID Hours

The hours of operations are from Tues. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Appointments are not necessary. Call for more Info at 586-239-5161

2011 UTA Schedule

Jan 8/9	Feb 12/13
Mar 12/13	Apr 9/10
May 21/22	Jun 4/5
July 16/17	Aug 13/14
Sep 10/11	Oct 22/23
Nov 5/6	Dec 3/4

Alternative Fuels Cont.

Information Collected

During the various projects, some of which were led by Army researchers working in conjunction with various Army commands at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren and others which were led by the Air Force APTO, data collected at Selfridge in the winter months was of particular interest to researchers, Modock said.

During the hydrogen fuel cell vehicle test, Modock said one issue was quickly discovered: the exhaust of a hydrogen fuel cell is pure water. That water froze on cold days, causing engines that could not be started. Modock said adding engine block heaters fixed that problem.

"That's a real-world issue that we quickly uncovered. That's the benefit of doing this type of testing," he said.

In the Fischer-Tropsch test, local Airmen discovered that after the S-8 blend was used in local vehicles, if regular JP-8 was used in the next fill up, a chemical reaction occurred which ate away the rubber seals inside the vehicle, causing fuel to leak.

"We learned that if we need to change fuels, we need to clean out the fuel system and replace the seals in advance," Vettraino said.

Vettraino said the CNG-powered vehicles worked well, but an issue there was the length of time it takes to refuel the vehicle.

The Wing continues to operate several pick-up trucks is powered by CNG, but it takes an entire night to re-fill the vehicle once the tank is empty.

"It's a good source of fuel, but the fueling time is the issue they need to work out with the CNG," Vettraino said.

Personnel Training

Byrdo said vehicle maintainers and related personnel are continuously learning about new alternative fuels technology.

"This is cutting edge," he said. "This is the way the Air Force and the whole auto industry are going."

Byrdo said he initially received some training in alternative fuels technology as a civilian employee of Ford Motor Company, while serving as a traditional member of the Michigan Air National Guard at Selfridge. Later, he became a full-time technician with the Guard and continued to receive training as new test projects rolled into Selfridge.

As part of the various fuels testing projects, the 127th created a new partnership with Macomb Community College, in which

the college provided several day-long training programs at the base in various advanced technologies. The college used the feedback from the Airmen who attended the training to fine-tune its own curriculum on the various emerging technologies.

"The college has been out here several times, working with us on a number of issues," Byrdo said. "We've brought in as many of our people as we could to get the training. We've done training on safety issues, on electric systems, on maintaining a hydrogen fuel cell. We're learning as we go."

Byrdo said the Air Force is increasingly providing training on alternative fuels technology during technical school training for new vehicle maintenance apprentices, but local training is

imperative as the technology continues to evolve.

"Our maintainers are being exposed to so many new technologies, it really is an exciting time," Modock said.

Changes at Selfridge

Vettraino said through the remainder of 2010, most, if not all, of the 127th's fleet of R-11 refueling tanker trucks will be operating on the S-8 blend, which was provided to the Wing as part of the Fischer-Tropsch test. Modock said using that fuel will provide local savings to the Wing in fuel expenses. In addition, as part of the test, a 12,000-gallon fuel storage tank at Selfridge was up-

graded, which provides a long-term benefit to the Wing.

Vettraino said he is also working through channels to arrange for an on-base fueling capability for E-85 gasoline. The base continues to use a small fleet of E-85 capable vehicles, but currently, they must be driven to a local off-base gas station to be refueled. The base also continues to utilize the CNG fueling station that was installed on base as part of that test.

"We have been working with a number of agencies on fuels tests for the past three or four years and want to continue that pattern," Modock said. "We will be open to working with all components of the DOD and Homeland Security to develop these types of partnerships."



Photo by TSgt. David Kujawa, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Kristian Magro and Technical Sgt. Jerry Byrdo inspect the engine on a pick-up truck that was operated utilizing a blend of synthetic fuel as part of an alternative fuels test at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Aug. 10, 2010. The test on the Fischer-Tropsch blend of fuel concluded in July. Selfridge has been the site of a number of test projects of alternative fuels for vehicles and other ground equipment over the last several years.

PIZZA

PRIZES

Selfridge Family Day



Sunday 26 Sept

1100-1600

Top 4 Area



ENTERTAINMENT



UNIT CHALLENGES



FAMILY GAMES



AWARDS

HOT DOGS



BRING A BLANKET

FUN



POC's

1/24 Marines—

NOBC—

127 Wing—Deb Solroeder
ext 5583

MW88 47 - Mr. Darryle
Johnson ext 2539

EUCOM JAC Det 2—Maj Fain
Ext 5830

HAMBURGERS

